



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Appropriations Committee
March 25, 2022**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **supports the increased funding under SB-452 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT AND MOHEGAN FUND.**

SB-452 provides \$146 million in funding for the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund, a significant increase from the current funding of \$51.5 million.

The Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund provides a much-needed source of revenues that municipalities rely on to fund critical services, including education, public health, safety and infrastructure. Reliable sources of municipal aid assist municipalities in controlling local budget growth and minimizing the need for property tax increases. The program, however, has not been fully funded and grants to municipalities are prorated.

COST supports efforts to increase funding for the program, which had been reduced over the years to address state budget deficits.

Thank you for your consideration of COST's position.